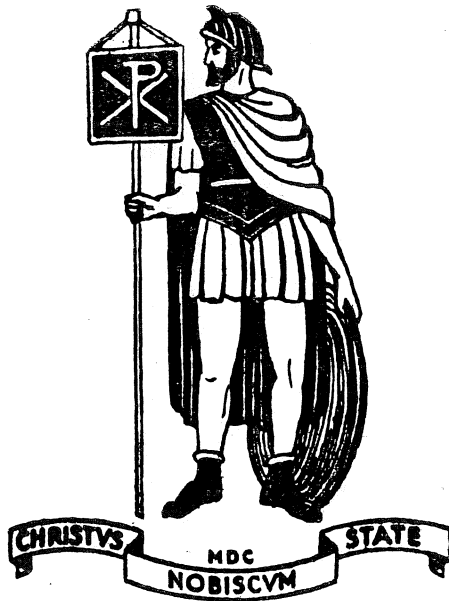


The

Alcester Grammar



School Record

December, 1950

Alcester Grammar School Record

No. 97.

DECEMBER, 1950.

EDITOR—MR. V. V. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—

Mary Burrows, Jennifer Birch, Barbara Druller, Jill Kempster,
Wendy Lovell, Finnemore, Feast, Davies ii.

ANNOUNCEMENT

As recorded last term, Mr. C. F. R. Ackland, who has been Headmaster of Alcester Grammar School since January, 1948, leaves at the end of the present term to become Headmaster of Selhurst Grammar School. Mr. E. Davison, at present Headmaster of Easingwold Grammar School, Yorkshire, has been appointed as his successor.

THE OLD SCHOLARS' GUILD

Hon. Secretary :
J. M. Stewart.

President :
G. P. Baylis.

Hon. Treasurer :
Mrs. M. Feast.

SUMMER REUNION, July 22nd, 1950

During the past year, two members of the Staff, both with long records of service, left the School, and Old Scholars took the opportunity to bid them farewell at the Reunion held at the School on Saturday, July 22nd. Both Miss Weatherup and Mr. Walker were able to be present, and the Hall was crowded when the ceremony of farewell was held after tea. It had been hoped that the weather would have allowed this to have been held out of doors, but the rain, which had ruined the sports activities in the afternoon, continued into the evening.

After opening the proceedings, the President introduced three Old Scholars, E. Bunting, C. Baylis, and Mary Rowland, who expressed their appreciation and gave their reminiscences of Miss Weatherup and Mr. Walker. Then the President made the presentation of the gifts, which had been subscribed for by Old Scholars: to Miss Weatherup, a cheque with which to purchase the farming implements she needed in her new work, and to Mr. Walker, a delivery note for a refrigerator, which was unfortunately delayed.

Miss Weatherup and Mr. Walker thanked Old Scholars for their gifts with moving words, and the ceremony was rounded off with speeches by Janet Wells, representing Mr. Wells, and by Mr. Ackland, the present Headmaster.

At the supper, which followed, the two retiring members of the Staff were guests of honour, and both stayed well on into the evening to watch the dancing in the Hall and to talk over old times with Old Scholars of all periods of the School's history.

AUTUMN DANCE, November 15th, 1950

A Dance has been arranged for this date at the Town Hall, Alcester, to the music of H. Beszant and his Orchestra.

The success of our dances helps very largely with the funds, and it is hoped that all who can support them will do so.

CHRISTMAS REUNION, December 16th, 1950

The Reunion will be held at the School on Saturday, December 16th, by kind permission of Mr. Ackland, to whom we must say goodbye and thank you, as this will be the last time he will be present as Headmaster. Another member of the Staff who will be leaving is Mr. Ankcorn, who has been caretaker of the School during most of its history. Old Scholars will want to show their appreciation of his warm friendliness and quiet efficiency, not to mention his anecdotes of the good old days of School cricket.

Supper will be served at 7.45 p.m. to allow good time for the business meeting afterwards, when new officers and committee will have to be elected. As an experiment, the charge of 2s. 6d. for the meal will be omitted, but the committee wish to draw the attention of all members to the fact that the Guild relies upon their subscriptions to provide far more than catering. Other items are postage, orchestras, decorations, etc., so please make the committee's task easier by coming forward promptly with your subscription.

The President and Committee send greetings for Christmas and good wishes for a Happy New Year to all Old Scholars, everywhere.

J. M. S.

SCHOOL REGISTER

VALETE

Amos, A. D. (VI.), 1944-50.
 *Bamford, E. P. (VI.), 1938-50.
 *Blundell, A. G. (VI.), 1942-50.
 Dance, J. B. (VI.), 1942-50.
 *Davies, J. (VI.), 1942-50.
 *Hartwell, C. A. (VI.), 1944-50.
 *Kempster, C. J. E. (VI.), 1938-50.
 *Perkins, S. A. (VI.), 1943-50.
 *Rose, D. A. (VI.), 1939-50.
 Bartlett, S. F. (Upper V.A), 1945-50.
 Dyke, S. M. (Upper V.A), 1945-50.
 Etsell, D. (Upper V.A), 1945-50.
 Hitchings, W. (Upper V.A), 1940-50.
 Hopkins, J. M. (Upper V.A), 1945-50.
 Milward, J. M. (Upper V.A), 1945-50.
 Redfern, J. (Upper V.A), 1947-50.
 Sallis, R. A. (Upper V.A), 1945-50.
 Thompson, S. A. (Upper V.A), 1940-50.
 Wilson, A. (Upper V.A), 1945-50.
 Winspear, G. M. (Upper V.A), 1944-50.
 Crow, B. C. (Upper V.B), 1944-50.

Cund, M. A. (Upper V.B), 1944-50.
 Fielding, T. P. (Upper V.B), 1947-50.
 Finnemore, J. G. (Upper V.B), 1943-50.
 Gray, A. J. (Upper V.B), 1945-50.
 Hammond, J. M. (Upper V.B), 1945-50.
 Langston, R. K. (Upper V.B), 1945-50.
 Pearce, D. J. (Upper V.B), 1945-50.
 Pritchard J. S. A. (Upper V.B), 1946-50.
 Sargeant, E. A. (Upper V.B), 1945-50.
 Savage, D. R. W. (Upper V.B), 1944-50.
 Trout, B. M. (Upper V.B), 1945-50.
 Vale, E. P. (Upper V.B), 1943-50.
 Ward, E. A. (Upper V.B), 1944-50.
 Locke, M. N. (Lower V.A), 1946-50.
 Burden, D. V. (Lower V.B), 1944-50.
 Tweed, S. M. (Lower V.B), 1946-50.
 Dugmore, P. L. (Lower IV.B), 1948-50.
 Morris, G. (Lower IV.B), 1947-50.
 Satchwell, R. T. (Lower IV.B), 1947-50.
 Preece, J. A. (III.A), 1949-50.
 Bennett, M. J. (III.B), 1948-50.

* Prefect.

SALVETE

Apperley, P. M. (I.A).
 Benfield, M. E. (I.A).
 Bennett, J. L. (I.A).
 Bint, S. A. (I.B).
 Bluck, M. A. (I.B).
 Bolt, R. M. (I.A).
 Bott, P. F. (I.B).
 Bough, J. N. (I.B).
 Broadley, R. W. (I.B).
 Bullingham, P. H. (I.A).
 Burden, J. M. (I.A).
 Clements, M. M. (I.B).
 Comson, A. R. (I.B).
 Cook, P. C. (I.A).
 Cremetti, A. M. (I.A).
 Davis, A. M. (I.B).
 Dixon, J. (I.B).
 Finnemore, M. (I.A).
 Fowler, P. A. (I.B).
 Freeman, B. A. (I.A).
 Gardner, C. S. (I.A).
 Goldby, N. G. (I.A).
 Harris, P. F. (I.A).
 Harrison, M. J. (I.A).
 Haynes, M. J. (I.A).
 Healey, T. J. (I.B).
 Hobbs, J. M. (I.B).
 Hodson, A. J. (I.A).
 Holt, E. A. (I.A).

James, M. C. (I.B).
 Jones, B. (I.B).
 Jones, A. R. (I.A).
 Jones, C. (I.B).
 Lowe, M. B. (I.B).
 Ludlow, K. (I.B).
 Maycock, G. (II.B).
 Merris, B. (I.B).
 Mills, M. H. (I.A).
 Newton, J. F. (I.B).
 Palmer, S. A. (I.B).
 Parker, R. B. (I.A).
 Pinfield, N. J. (I.A).
 Pugh, M. M. (I.A).
 Rose, P. A. (I.B).
 Roberts, M. I. (II.A).
 Sale, D. E. (I.A).
 Seeney, P. L. (I.B).
 Sharpe, R. A. (I.A).
 Sheppard, D. (I.B).
 Smart, J. N. (I.B).
 Sollis, M. J. (I.A).
 Treadgold, A. J. (I.A).
 Walker, P. (I.B).
 Ward, A. M. (I.B).
 Ward, D. J. (I.A).
 Webb, J. M. (I.A).
 Whitehouse, B. A. (I.B).
 Whiting, B. M. (I.A).

There have been 311 pupils in attendance this term.

BIRTHS

- On April 16th, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Cox (née Stella Stevens)—a son.
On July 28th, to Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Thomas (née Zena Richardson)—a son.
On August 28th, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Fisher (née Betty Price)—a son.
On September 25th, to Mr. and Mrs. O. Ridley (née Betty Baylis)—a son.
On September 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. F. Shrimpton (née Gertrude Wilson)—a son.
On October 19th, to Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Oliver (née Phyllis Carratt)—a son.
On October 27th, to Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Howes—a daughter.
On October 30th, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Morton—a daughter.
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MARRIAGES

- On July 15th, at Alcester, Denis Daniel Morbey to Audrey Jean Villers (scholar 1936-45).
On July 29th, at Studley, Frank Houghton (scholar 1936-41) to Doris Mary Jones.
On July 31st, at Shoreham, Stanley William Snow (scholar 1934-39) to Anthea Norman.
On August 3rd, at Ullenhall, John Stanley Richmond to Winifred Blanche Archer (scholar 1938-44).
On August 21st, at Arrow, Marcus Rodda to Margaret Beatrice Moizer (scholar 1937-43).
On September 2nd, at Alcester, John Alan Wade Gray (scholar 1940-45) to Beryl Amelia Fenemore.
On September 13th, at St. Helens, Leonard Noel Green (scholar 1928-38) to Josephine Grace Batt.
On September 16th, at Beoley, Desmond Bishop to Gillian Olive Garfield (scholar 1941-42).
On September 23rd, at Headless Cross, Raymond John Whadcoat (scholar 1941-45) to Patricia Ames.
On October 7th, at Studley, Lionel William Frederick Lilley (scholar 1941-46) to Hazel Gillian Perkins.
On October 21st, at Alcester, Bernard Baldwin to E. Anne Aspinwall (scholar 1934-42).
On November 4th, at Headless Cross, George Henry Spencer (scholar 1934-37) to Joan Beatrice Chambers.

On November 4th, at Alcester, Geoffrey William Collier to Joan Elizabeth Tuckey (scholar 1941-42).

On November 16th, at Inkberrow, Clive B. Williams to Angela M. Jenkins (scholar 1929-39).

On November 18th, at Alcester, Frank Clark (scholar 1940-45) to Jacqueline N. Steele (scholar 1940-45).

DEATHS

On July 9th, Stephanie Mary Payne (née Baylis) (scholar 1921-26), aged 39 years.

On July 15th, Walter Parker (scholar 1927-29), aged 36 years.

On September 9th, John Edward Wilson (scholar 1918-21), aged 45 years.

OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

Once more two Old Scholars have been chosen as Bailiffs of Alcester. The High Bailiff is P. E. Wheeler and the Low Bailiff P. H. Rutter.

In the tennis match with the School played on Friday, July 14th, the Old Scholars won by eight sets to one. They were represented by Evelyn Holder and Josephine Holder, Sylvia Goulbourne and Natalie Smart, Janet Kerby and Joan Prosser.

Kathleen Smallwood (née Perks) has been in England on holiday from Malaya during the summer.

The Old Scholars played the School at cricket in Ragley Park on Tuesday, July 25th, the match being drawn. The Old Scholars' team was: D. Collett (captain), A. D. Collins, W. Devey, R. Harris, G. Hillman, R. Hunt, W. McCarthy, R. Randall, V. Stone, R. Woodfield, K. Woods.

Vera Wickett (née Wood) has been appointed an Examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal College of Music.

Joyce Beesley (née Machin) has recently emigrated to Australia with her husband and son.

R. J. Walton has obtained his M.A. degree of Cambridge University.

A. J. Dalrymple is in the Army; E. Bamford and A. J. Blundell are in the Air Force.

Margaret Southwick was chosen Carnival Queen for Redditch in July.

It is with much regret that we have to record the deaths of three Old Scholars. Mrs. Mary Payne (née Baylis) died in July after a very long illness. Walter Parker and John Wilson both died suddenly. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the relatives of all these Old Scholars.

BIRMINGHAM TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE*Extracts from my diary of a six-weeks' hitch-hiking holiday.*

JULY 10th—

We set out along the Stratford road with high hopes and heavy rucksacks, mine emblazoned with a large Union Jack. Almost at once we got a lift to London in a private car. After some bus-ing, tram-ing and tube-ing, we secured a lift by lorry to Maidstone, then by private car right to Folkestone harbour. I went to enquire about boats, while my pal Harry guarded the rucksacks. The moment I uttered the word "boat," the man said: "It's just leaving." I grabbed the tickets, collected Harry, and we ran like hares through the Customs shed and so on to the boat. Arrived in Calais, we were quickly off the boat and through a very lax Customs into the most forsaken hole I have so far seen. We walked through seeming miles of desolate docks and between shell-blasted houses into a truly dreary bombed town. In a French dairy shop the magic word "lait" got us some milk. But then the trouble started. We wanted some paraffin for the primus, but everywhere we went no one seemed to understand us, even in a shop displaying the notice "English Spoke." In that quest we were offered scent (*parfum*), liquid paraffin, solid paraffin, petrol—anything but the ordinary, common product. At length light dawned: we had been asking for "paraffin" and now a dictionary told us that it should have been "pétrôl." A visit to a shop now speedily secured what we wanted and, after shaking hands all round, we walked out hugging our precious paraffin. Satisfied at last, we took the Boulogne road and camped for the night in an old German gun emplacement (rain was falling) and cooked our meal.

JULY 11th and 12th—

After a fair night's rest, rather disturbed by the attentions of French beetles and French midges, we broke camp early. We tramped a mile or so before we were picked up by a decrepit car whose occupants were two large, jolly farmers. Dropped in Boulogne, we started to walk to Severs, some twenty-five kilometres away. And walk we did! All the way! We seemed to be on a tourist road, and all the G.B. cars that passed us greeted us with a friendly wave, but were always full. Severs stands on a hill and has a constant wind blowing through it. When we entered the large square it was quite deserted, and the ring of our boots on the cobbles and the echoes from the buildings made us want to tip-toe. Cobbles! There were round ones, square ones, coloured ones, high ones, low ones, and all of them terrible to walk on. After a time we obtained a lift in a lorry which was bound for Paris, and which carried us on our way far into the night. At last we pulled up for some hours and pitched our tents for some sleep. When we were roused at dawn, we discovered why we had found difficulty in driving in our tent-pegs at one side: the main road was a bare foot away from our tents.

Another fifty kilometres and we stopped for breakfast. To our great surprise we got a ham salad, a huge omelette, rolls and coffee. Presumably

our driver had told Madame that we were mad Englishmen and ate an enormous breakfast. On arriving in Paris we failed to secure accommodation, but a lift by lorry took us to Fontainebleau, where we obtained lodging at a very pleasant hostel.

JULY 13th—

We set out on the road to the South, which goes via Lyons. A G.B. car helped us as far as Sens, but we had no further success, and at last decided to spend the night just outside the town. We did not pitch tent, as it was too warm, but slept under the stars.

JULY 14th—

Despite an early effort, we failed to get a lift, and after a spell of tramping we took a bus to Auxerre. Outside this town we found an old barn and were about to cook dinner when a man ran up and told us we could not stay there. He was, seemingly, the guardian of the barn, and had to keep people out, as the roof was unsafe. However, after partaking of our coffee, he presented us with the freedom of the barn for as long as we liked; he would look after us! Some time later we pushed on on foot in the company of a Pole whom, however, we decided we did not want as a permanent companion. We turned into a roadside cafe, in the back garden of which we eventually spent the night.

JULY 15th—

On the advice of the proprietor we resolved to try a "Les Routiers" cafe further along the road. We went in for a petit déjeuner, and did a sketch of the cafe to present to Madame. She secured for us a lift in a lorry standing outside, and we were carried to Maçon, some three hundred kilometres distant. It was a most enjoyable ride, right over the top of the winding pass into the Rhone Valley. We got glimpses of graceful chateaux perched on high pinnacles of rock, almost like fairy castles, immense vineyards over the mountain sides, and pokey little villages. Now we really did feel far from home in a country different from anything else I have ever seen.

During the journey, our driver stopped in a little village to get his hair cut, and we took the opportunity to have ours cut as well. The barber said that his brother was getting married that day, and invited us to the wedding. Time did not permit us to accept this invitation and, even so, we did not reach Maçon till midnight. We were deposited at a cafe where we hoped to get a Marseilles lorry. And we did. But the driver was an irate, blasphemous character with only one leg (how he drove I do not know!). He had had two tyres go that day and had been drowning his sorrows in drink. But after we had signed a paper to the effect that he would not accept any responsibility if we were injured in his lorry, he agreed to take us. This lorry was a ten-wheeler and could seat six across in the cab but, better still, it had two bunks behind the driver, and we took full advantage of these as he drove through the night.

JULY 16th—

At about seven o'clock in the morning there was a terrifying bang as two tyres burst simultaneously. There were no spares, and our driver advised us to leave him, as he might be held up for days. We were fortunate in obtaining a lift in a Citroen through Avignon all the way to Marseilles. On our arrival, we found crowds hanging about and policemen walking round in pairs carrying machine carbines. One of these advised us to leave the town as quickly as possible, as the previous day had been Bastille Day and national feeling was running high. We caught a tram to the outskirts, and started on foot along the coast. We walked over the mountains till we reached a little seaside town called Cassis. Here we decided we would camp for a week.

JULY 17th—

Cassis seemed to be an ideal spot. It is an interesting old town and provides good facilities for swimming. In addition, it is free from English and American tourists, so that prices are reasonable. We have found quite a good camping ground, whose only drawback is a rather steep descent to the sea. Our morning was occupied with a little shopping and a look round the town, which is typically French, with high, plain-walled houses in narrow street and with shuttered windows. It is so hot here that everyone goes to sleep around mid-day, and it then resembles a place of the dead. In the afternoon we had our first swim in the blue Mediterranean. As we strolled back along the street, we were stopped by a gendarme, who reprimanded us for walking about in bathing costumes. Obviously one may wear the briefest of shorts, but not a bathing costume!

JULY 18th-27th—

We had started by setting up our tents in the middle of the camping ground. But soon we found the heat of the sun almost unbearable and the dust exceedingly troublesome, in spite of all our improvised awnings. Then we discovered that there were three Englishmen camping in the pine trees on the edge of the ground, and we decided to join them. With them were also two "waifs and strays"—creatures frequently found in this part of the world. They are men with no inclination to work and entirely without money. One of these was English, the other Danish; the former was an unpleasant fellow, cadging all that he could get; the other had more pride and refused to accept anything unless he was pressed to do so.

After a day or two our life fell into a very pleasant routine. In the morning we sketch and in the afternoon swim and lie in the sun. We have a big breakfast, and we eat dinner in a cafe on the sea front, buying bread, grapes, bananas, plums or any of the fruit which is very cheap and plentiful. The cafes here mostly have their tables under awnings in the streets and look very picturesque. We have got to know the waiter in our cafe quite well. He is called Mario, and he leads a very hard life,

working from six in the morning till two the next morning and earning only what he receives in tips. He is everybody's friend and equally familiar with rich and poor. I have even seen him pour a glass of water down a customer's back for a joke without any resentment being shown.

We join a party of French students for our swimming and indulge with them in the sport of harpooning fish. For this pastime there is a special kit, consisting of a face mask through which to see in the water, with a breathing tube so that one can look down all the time. The water is wonderfully clear, and all plant and animal life on the sea bed can be freely seen. For harpooning a gun is used which propels a harpoon through the water by means of elastic. This sounds rather like a toy, but is really quite lethal, so much so that a licence is required for its use.

We have decided to prolong our stay at Cassis for a second week, and then to return to Paris by rail. Hitch-hiking is really very difficult, as lorries refuse to pick one up, because of difficulties with insurance and the risk of theft, while private cars are always full. I warn anyone thinking of hitch-hiking in France—don't!

I found out some interesting facts about our camping ground. It is an old football stadium, though it now bears little resemblance to one. It ceased to serve this purpose when the mayor's son was killed through tripping over a small boulder in the field of play!

Our time here is quickly drawing to an end. At the moment I am sitting on the verandah of a small cafe. The proprietor has obligingly put on a programme of English records on his gramophone. Although they are somewhat old, I find them quite welcome after nothing but French music, and they help to prepare me for our return journey to England, which we are due to begin to-morrow.

M. W. STEVENI.

AUTUMN TERMS—PAST AND PRESENT

My first impression of an autumn term at Alcester Grammar School was one of chaos.

I arrived at Alcester on that first morning along with other exceedingly nervous newcomers, and was drawn, pulled, or pushed into the chaotic cloakroom. I was confronted, surrounded, overwhelmed, by what seemed to me hordes of screaming girls. My more experienced friend dragged me around and procured a peg for my use.

This year, I myself was one of the experienced ones, although I did not scream, remembering my dignity as an old stager in the Sixth Form. The chaos, however, was still there, and I was later one of the valiant few who tried to introduce order.

During that first day seven years ago, I was introduced to my book list, and also received my books, which both thrilled and horrified me. This year, already possessing most of my books, which no longer thrill but only horrify me, I spent an excessively boring day, hearing at least six times what subjects the new Sixth Formers were persuaded to take.

Seven years ago I was assigned my place in the gym, where we dined, as the School did not then possess its canteen. My remembrance of those first School dinners is one of sausages and spam, which we ate from three long tables in the gym, or in what is now the Domestic Science room.

Chaos did not exist only in the cloakroom, however, for it was evident at least in III.A and Lower IV.A, my first two forms. The sole occupation of the boys, at least of those Forms, seemed to be fighting. When not indulging in those manly feats, they were obtaining D's and others low marks, the results of their "declining years," no doubt. In the Sixth Form, the masculine minority are rarely present, the victims of onerous duties. When they are they refrain from fighting—or do they? I wonder.

In the past, I and a number of other valiant souls travelled to and from School on the old "bone-shaker" Stratford Blue buses. If we did happen to arrive at School on time in those days we arrived soaked, if it happened to rain (through the roof of the bus) or suffocated by fumes. Nowadays we travel in "comparative" comfort, still shaken admittedly, but not suffocated or soaked.

It was not only in the old "Stratford Blues" that we suffocated, however, for in later autumn terms I experienced a similar fate in the "black hut." Oh, First Formers, you don't know what you've missed! The fumes in that hut were almost indescribable; there could be no comparison with fog for density. The Staff usually drove our semi-conscious bodies forth into the fresher but freezing frost or snow.

In "ye olden tymes" the awful prospect of exams. loomed up towards the end of the autumn term; now we merely contemplate Christmas with pleasure. Then the longed-for last day of term arrived, everybody singing carols, reports being issued, the last assembly held, and then home, thank goodness!

My general impressions of autumn terms are of new classes and companions, fog and fumes, carols and chaos.

MARY BURROWS (VI.).

NOTES AND NEWS

The autumn term opened on Wednesday, September 13th, and closes on Tuesday, December 19th.

A display of country dancing was given by Miss Hewitt's dancing class on the front tennis court on Friday, July 14th.

The senior girls' tennis tournament was held on Monday, July 17th, and the Middle School tournament on Monday, July 24th.

On Thursday, July 27th, the Staff met the Sixth Form in a tennis match, the Staff winning by 17 sets to 8. The Staff team consisted of Miss Moizer and Mr. Ackland, Miss Hewitt and Mr. Hadwen, Miss Jolley and Mr. Petherbridge, Mrs. Petherbridge and Mr. Lord, Miss Young and Mr. Thornton. The Sixth Form were represented by Janet Davies and Bamford, Frances Highman and Buckley, Barbara Bryan and Dance, Ann Perkins and Hadwen, Cecily Hartwell and Stanley.

In the girl's Tennis Challenge Cup final, played on Thursday, July 27th, Ann Perkins beat Janet Davies 6-2, 3-6, 10-8.

The School photograph was taken on Friday, July 28th.

On Monday, July 31st, a play reading was given in the Hall to the Upper and Lower Fourth by members of the Dramatic Society.

At the closing assembly on Tuesday, August 1st, Mrs. A. B. Quinney made the presentations of cups, shields, medals and other awards.

A pair of batting gloves for the best performance at cricket was presented to Clark, and a cricket ball for the best junior player to Lane ii.

Tennis colours were presented to Janet Davies, Frances Highman and Ann Perkins.

During the summer holidays the Alcester Builders took possession of the School buildings, and the exterior as well as a number of rooms were decorated. Their work continued into the third week of term.

The head boy is Hadwen; the head girl Diena Browne.

The prefects this term are : Senior—Hadwen, Perryman, Warburton, Stanley, Buckley, McCarthy, Diena Browne, Rosamund Varney, Mary Burrows, Barbara Bryan, Frances Highman, Jannifer Birch; Junior—Gowers, Finnemore i, Bradley, Drew, Gloria Malpass, Pat Aspinwall, Margaret Bennett, Barbara Druller, Jill Kempster.

Sides captains are: *Brownies*—Finnemore i, Rosamund Varney (Games), Mary Burrows (Arts and Crafts); *Jackals*—McCarthy, Jennifer Birch (Games), Frances Highman (Arts and Crafts); *Tomtits*—Hadwen, Drusilla Mortimore (Games), Joan Waring (Arts and Crafts).

This term we welcome to the Staff Miss B. Lavery (Art) and Miss K. Morris (French).

Congratulations to Miss B. M. Moizer on her marriage to Mr. M. Rodda.

A new system of naming forms has been introduced this term. Forms III.A and III.B have become I.A and I.B, Lower IV.A and B have become II.A and B, Upper IV.A and B have become III.A and B, Lower V.A and B have become IV.A and B, and Upper V.A and B have become V.A and B.

The football captain is Hadwen, the hockey captain Rosamund Varney, and the netball captain Jennifer Birch.

Our thanks to Dorothy Rose for a gift of books to the fiction library.

Mrs. E. J. Hunt is assisting this term with classes in leatherwork.

Half-term was Friday, November 3rd, and Monday, November 6th.

Speech Day has been arranged for Thursday, December 14th.

Special ties have now been provided to be worn by prefects.

On Wednesday, November 8th, two hockey films, entitled "Some Suggestions" and "Advice to Umpires," were shown to the girls' hockey enthusiasts.

By the sale of poppies in the School, over £4 was collected for Earl Haig's Fund.

In the trials held at Edgbaston on Saturday, November 11th, Barbara Druller was chosen reserve goalkeeper for the Warwickshire Ladies' junior hockey team.

KOLN, 1950

In July this year, Cologne celebrated a national youth week, to which they invited youth from fourteen nations. I considered myself very fortunate to be one of the English contingent.

We arrived cold and tired at the unearthly hour of 3.0 a.m., and were greeted at the station by a jolly, round German with roguish eyes who proved to be the head of the hostel (the *Wetjugenherberge des Freidens*, by name) in which we were staying. He encouraged us with the promise of a nice cup of tea with "smelk and succer," which had a miraculous effect.

We felt much better after "a good night's sleep in our very comfortable beds" (four hours I spent tossing and turning on a hard straw mattress). Nevertheless, we arose bright and early and went into the grand marquee for breakfast. At the door we were each presented with a hard-boiled egg, which we carried with us to our table. We were much dismayed to discover that there were no egg-cups and that we were expected to consume the egg without the aid of the usual knife and spoon. It was really amusing to see the various methods employed to tackle this unusual problem. We also discovered that we had committed a grave breach of etiquette, for we had commenced to devour our meal without yelling the accustomed "Gute appetit."

We had for dinner a large bowl—a very large bowl—of pea soup of a rather thick variety, followed by stewed rice and gooseberries. We had pea soup for supper, too. In fact, we had pea soup some dozen times or more during our stay in Germany. But I should hate to give the impression that our diet was in any way monotonous. For we had pea soup thin and pea soup thick, pea soup hot and pea soup cold, and on a few rare occasions we had the proverbial German sausage. After wallowing in pea soup for a week I realised exactly why "Gute appetit" was the formal greeting before meals, and believe me you needed one.

We did, however, do other things besides consume vast quantities of pea soup. In fact, our time was crammed from early morn to earlier morn with various activities. Some of our time was spent in attending organised discussions on world problems. We visited numerous exhibitions, youth clubs, youth concerts (orchestral and variety). We visited museums, theatres and other places of interest. We also went to the Cathedral and spent an afternoon struggling up the five hundred-odd steps to the summit of the tower. We appreciated the wonderful view, which was marred only by the extensive bomb damage. I had prepared myself to find much bomb damage, but I had not expected to see the utter devastation. There were also trips to Bonn, where we inspected the Government buildings, and the Dhun Valley.

Each incident left its own individual impression. But the spirit of friendship which existed in the hostel left a far deeper impression than anything else (even more than the pea soup). It was reassuring that people from fourteen different nations could live together with such amity and understanding. I am convinced that if this idea was encouraged it would help international relationship and goodwill.

JENNIFER A. BIRCH (VI.).

THE SHOW ON THE BEACH

At the seaside town where I spent my summer holiday, a mysterious tent appeared one day on the beach. I was very curious and wondered why anyone should want to pitch a tent there.

I soon found out. The next time I passed this tent I saw written in large letters on a board leaning against it: "Nigger Minstrel Show." Also on the board were details of the times of the shows, and the prices of admission. I was very interested, as I had never seen a minstrel show before, and I determined to go to this show.

I persuaded my father to take me, and so one evening I set out with my father and mother and my brother to see the show. When we arrived we bought our tickets, went into the enclosure and sat down in the deck-chairs provided. It was a very chilly evening; a cold wind was coming in from the sea, and unfortunately the canvas walls of the tent afforded little or no protection. However, we patiently waited for the show to start, thinking we should soon forget our coldness when we watched the show.

When the minstrel show began, the half-dozen "niggers" sat in a semi-circle on the stage, but it was painfully obvious that they were not niggers at all, because they were very badly made up. Even this might not have mattered, but they looked so sad and miserable, as they did not grin widely like nigger minstrels usually do. Also, never have I seen more badly-fitting or unrealistic wigs!

Of course, this gave me a bad impression to start with, but I am sorry to say the impression lasted. It was a dull, lifeless, boring show, and we did not forget how cold we were! It was so bad, in fact, that more than half the audience got up and walked out before it was half-way through. I quite sympathised with them, and would have liked to walk out myself, but how dreadful it must have been for the poor "minstrels"!

All the turns were either songs that no one knew or jokes which weren't funny. However, we stuck it out to the end, getting colder and colder, and more and more bored. At the end, when there were few people left, there was a very good turn, but I am afraid this one good turn could not make up for the rest of the show.

I came out of the tent sadly disillusioned about nigger minstrel shows on the beach, and I can assure you that I shall make careful enquiries before going to another nigger minstrel show.

JILL KEMPSTER (VI.)

THE COMMON COLD

When Winter's here,
The Common Cold
Comes to join us
As of old.

Our hands are blue,
We sniff and sneeze,
With aching heads
We cough and wheeze.

With streaming eyes
And noses red,
We wish that we
Could stay in bed.

Atchoo! Oh, why
Can't doctors kill
The Common Cold
That plagues us still?

KATHLEEN HIGHMAN (IV.A.)

LOCUSTS

After reading in a daily newspaper recently about the plague of locusts in East Africa, I was reminded of a very exciting afternoon spent in West Africa. It was the only occasion on which I saw them.

It was the cook boy who came into the house with the exciting news: "The locusts are coming." We rushed outside, and he pointed to a pink cloud on the horizon in the East. We lived in an isolated spot in the bush and the garden was the only cultivated ground for several miles around. Naturally, the garden boy was very agitated, fearing that his fine crop of vegetables would disappear overnight. He watched the clock anxiously because, he said, they would settle with us for the night if they arrived about five o'clock. The cloud came gradually nearer, and we could hear the whirring of millions of wings. At last they were over the house, and to our dismay they settled on everything: on the thatched roof, the boys' huts, the trees and every plant.

Now the fun began. How well I remember running round helping the house boys to fill their bags. They told me that they intended frying them for their supper. They were large insects, pink and brown in colour, with a wing span about two to three inches.

When we got up the next morning they had vanished. They must have continued their journey West at daybreak, which was about four o'clock. There was not a leaf to be seen anywhere; the vegetables were destroyed and the paw-paw trees stripped of their leaves.

The cook boy informed us that his grandfather once told him that a swarm only came once in seven years. This was possibly true, because they never visited us again in the five years we were there.

WENDY LOVELL (IV.A.)

THE EXPLANATION

I was in the middle of a quiet conversation with Mrs. Brown, when Mr. Brown came out of the living-room looking like a ghost. His face was pale, his hair had suddenly turned white, and his hands had brown spots on them. Mrs. Brown had made him a cup of tea, and he drank it immediately, but even this did not seem to change his colour. After a short while he went back into the room and closed the door behind him. Strange sounds began to come from the room and I wondered what was going on, but not liking to be inquisitive, I said good-bye to Mrs. Brown and returned home.

I couldn't forget this incident, and I went to see Mrs. Brown again the next day. As soon as I entered the house, Mrs. Brown asked me to go into the living room. There I found Mr. Brown sitting by the fire reading the newspaper, and looking much better than he had done the day before. Mrs. Brown came into the room and asked me if I had noticed anything different in the house. At first I wondered what she meant, but then I looked around and said: "Yes, Mrs. Brown, your husband certainly does look better." Mrs. Brown, looking first at her husband and then at me, said: "I'm quite sure that I didn't know he looked ill, but he decorated this room very well yesterday, didn't he?"

JOAN WARING (V.A).

PRECIOUS PLANTS NEED CARE

The surface of the water is disturbed and ripples gently as a plant with what seem to be long brownish tendrils is lowered into it. After a few moments the water becomes still and the plant comes to the surface and floats. One can now examine it more closely.

It appears to be made up of thousands of rather greasy, brown leaves of varying lengths, but all extremely thin. It has very sensitive roots, which all proceed from one growing-crown above the tendrils.

Now a white, filmy substance enters the water, together with nearly a dozen pinkish worms. The white fertiliser (we presume) mingles with the roots and tendrils and the worms wriggle through them. All the water is drained from the round pond in which it has been held and then this is again filled with running water. Finally it can be seen that the leaves of the plant have lost their greasy look and have become soft and shining. (At intervals during the process the plant has emitted shrill shrieks, which lead one to believe that it is of the same genus as the mandrake.)

The whole plant is then lifted from the water and, as this is done, the tendrils coil themselves, like a snake, above the roots. The person who is carrying this "snake" puts it in a warm place for a few hours before it is processed in the normal way for this type of plant.

But why all this fuss over just a plant? Well, the plant is my hair, and it was being washed.

BARBARA DRULLER (VI.).

A DAY'S SHOOTING

Early on Saturday mornings my father, an early riser, often shouts upstairs to me and asks me whether I want to go "beating." I crawl out of bed, try to wake myself up, hurry and get dressed, and arrive down to breakfast about nine-thirty (not p.m.). I feverishly gobble up my meal, whilst my mother prepares coffee and sandwiches. Having suitably equipped ourselves, we then set out for our destination.

When we arrive we find a number of guns and other "beaters" waiting to start. The "chief guns" then outline their plan of campaign, which usually depends on the direction of the wind and on where the best cover and, therefore, most of the game, is thought to be.

Beating is a very wearying job. All the beaters form into a line, with the wings slightly forward, and try to drive the game with the wind towards the guns, who are generally hidden in a line behind a thick hedge, or some other convenient place of concealment. The beaters have to scramble through or under hedges, wade through ditches and suffer many similar hardships to keep in line. It is not unusual for them to be soaked to the skin, have their boots doubled in size by the mud, and their clothes badly torn.

Despite all this, one has the satisfaction of being ravenously hungry when the break for dinner comes, and of receiving adequate recompense, when the time arrives to finish. Weary, yet content therefore, and perhaps having a brace of partridges in the car boot, we say goodnight and set out for home.

E. FINNEMORE (VI.).

FLYING SAUCERS

"Come on, John! the washing-up,
Do every plate and knife and cup.
It's ten to six and if you're slow
You'll miss 'Dick Barton,' off you go."
Ouch! Oh! the water's far too hot!
Oh, gosh, I've dropped Ma's best tea-pot.
I've dropped a saucer, spilt the caddy;
Mother will be in a paddy.
The clock is showing ten past six.
Now I'm in a proper fix;
I've got five minutes in which I pray
I've time to dry and put away.
Hooray! I've finished just in time.
Now "Dick Barton" that's just fine.

J. HEMMING (IV.A).

OLLA PODRIDA

My grandfather, writes R.V., has a pig which he kills every so often.

His eyes swarmed, says P.R., and everything got mixed up.

If you are well-mannered, it shows you are well-bread.

The south-east coast of Australia, writes a member of Lower V.A, is the most fertilised.

The Sadducees did not believe in fairies, says E.W.

Animi trium iuvenum eodem studio complebantur means, according to a Lower Fourth Latin enthusiast, "the third friend is an old man who filled the study."

He was accused, writes J.W., of talking blastronomy.

Pleurisy was one of the abuses of Catholicism.

A.S. informs us that they were dragging fish on to the key.

Trees on the Downs, writes M.P., grow singularly.

C.M. tells us about "cosmetic" rays.

Suddenly we heard voices. One of them turned round and saw us.

K.H. has discovered a new case usage: it is the provocative dative.

Put the bunsen burner underneath the paper, writes a chemist, and begin to go green.

Sulphur is found in beds in Texas.

Most plants come from a seed and animals come from young things, *e.g.*, a cat comes from a kitten.

The field was so dry, says B.S., that it looked like a dogged desert.

THE HURRICANE

It was a hot, sultry day in India, the sort of day which promises a hurricane. There was no one about; the natives safely took to shelter, and most of the white men followed their example.

Suddenly it broke. Without any warning at all a terrible gale arose and rain came down in torrents, and in a few minutes everything was soaked. The wind shook all the buildings, causing the furniture to be shaken about. The great trees trembled and bowed before the gale, and many of the smaller trees fell to the ground. It was terrible. The wind increased in volume.

Then, as quickly as it started, it abated, and peace and quiet reigned over the little Indian settlement.

N. PINFIELD (I.A.)

SIXTH FORM NOTES

Life in the Sixth this term has started amidst chaotic conditions, and a Form of only 22 was divided into several different levels in each subject. In addition to this, it was found that of the new scientists who had recently been elevated to the privileged ranks, many were taking English, French, History and Latin. This has improved greatly the atmosphere between the two sections of the Sixth, and (whether for better or worse) the result has been such that an avowed scientist has been observed gravely studying Lewis Carroll and (much to the amusement of the "Higher" mathematicians) VIA students were frantically wrestling with algebra. Thanks to the new General Certificate, it seems that a fuller education will be received by all Sixth Formers.

A diversion from this disturbing scene, however, has been found in the activities of the painters, who amused us for several weeks at the beginning of term. Before very long, they were known by such affectionate appellations as "Taffy" and "Harry." Fortunately for the sorely-tried Staff, they have now disappeared.

Several of our members left last term, notably Kempster and D. Rose, our head boy and girl. Their stimulating presence has been sadly missed. Stanley also has just left, to take up accounting, and we wish him, and all the others, success in their new careers.

Our hopes of winning the Staff v. Sixth tennis tournament were dashed at the end of last term when, although we played (as we thought) our strongest team for several years, we were beaten by 17 sets to 8. This is explained by the fact that the Staff were seen to be practising several nights a week for a considerable time before the match. Many of our team were no match for the scientific precision with which Mr. Hadwen placed his returns, or for the verve and espieglerie of Mr. Lord's service.

We have recently experienced the moral uplift of new insignia: prefects' ties. These are looked on with envy by the rest of the School.

Any Old Scholar entering the Sixth Form early this term would experience nasally a subtle aroma, not of cabbage (as several were wont to complain of in the old dining-room days) but of flowers. We have, apparently, some new members with strong horticultural interests. We hope they will continue the pleasant custom of bringing flowers, as they enhance considerably the restful effect of some of our lessons.

M. R. PERRYMAN (VI.).

A TORBAY-DARTMOUTH CRUISE

The day we decided to go on the cruise to Dittisham dawned fine, although the weather was not ideal, for it was cold and misty.

The cruise we were going on left Torquay at half-past two, came across Torbay, and stopped to pick up passengers at Brixham at three. Having left the harbour of Brixham, into which William of Orange sailed in 1688, we went out into the outer harbour, past many yachts and trawlers to where a ship was anchored for the use of Belgians while they were training. This ship was anchored almost at the end of the stone breakwater, near the Anglo-American Oil Company's jetty. We went round the breakwater, and then turned eastwards towards Berry Head. Before reaching this headland, however, we passed the Berry Head House Hotel, where the Rev. Henry Francis Lyte was born, and we could just catch a glimpse of the seat where, at the beginning of the 19th century, he wrote "Abide with me."

Reaching the end of the headland, we could see the stone quarries, and the squat lighthouse, which has the highest elevation in Great Britain, although it is the shortest in stature. Passing this lighthouse on our right, we continued past the Cradle Rock, which shelters a small cove, St. Mary's Bay, and Sharkham Point. After about half-an-hour we entered the estuary of the River Dart.

Dartmouth was on our left, and Kingswear on our right. Although both towns have the ancient ruins of castles dating back to the 15th century, Kingswear is relatively modern, while Dartmouth has many ancient memories of stirring naval history. Behind the town could be seen the Royal Naval College, and in the river were a few vessels used for training the cadets and a ship which has never been to sea. This was built, mostly of wood, for use in scientific research, but was never completed owing to the outbreak of the war. Two ferry services run between Dartmouth and Kingswear, one being privately owned, and one belonging to British Railways.

As we continued up the Dart, we could not see a great deal, because of the woods, which reached down to the river, but we managed to catch a glimpse of Agatha Christie's house. Leaving the house in the distance, we approached the ancient and picturesque town of Dittisham, where the river is almost a mile in width.

We landed at Dittisham for tea and, returning by the same route shortly afterwards, we found that most of the trawlers had left Brixham harbour to go fishing.

PAT ASPINWALL (VI.).

ARTS AND CRAFTS, 1950

The following awards were made for the Arts and Crafts competitions:—

Bronze Medals: Bamford, Barbara Druller, Jennifer Hammond, Eileen Richards, Sallis, Gillian Winspear, Jean Finnemore, Burden ii, Drew, Mary Bunting, Mavis Bennett, Susan Salmons, Audrey Digby, Pamela Rook, Valerie Baseley, Enid Bennett, Pamela Husband, Elizabeth Manning, Kathleen Richards, Ann Swinglehurst, Hilary Smith.

Silver Medals: Janet Davies, Dorothy Rose, Joan Hopkins, Jill Bunting.

Arts and Crafts Shield: Brownies.

OUR WEEK-END DISASTER

One Saturday morning, feeling energetic, my father thought he would sweep the chimney and save the chimney-sweep a journey. When he had got all his brushes, etc., ready he took out the hearthrug and forgot all about the rest of the furniture. It was a new brush, and daddy got going in fine style. After about ten minutes of hard pushing and grunting, he thought the brush had got stuck; he gave an extra-large heave, and suddenly outside came a terrific crash. He ran out and found the chimney-pot all in little pieces, and about a dozen bricks lying on the ground. He found that he had pushed so hard that half the chimney-stack had fallen, and he had to spend the rest of the day putting a new pot on. I leave you to guess what mother said about the state of the room.

EILEEN LEWIS (III.A.).

SPORTS DAY, 1950

The Sports, postponed from May 25, were held in unsettled weather on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 19th. Only a few parents and friends were present, as it appeared very uncertain whether the programme could be carried through that day. Conditions, however, improved as the afternoon advanced, and almost all the events were completed by half-past three. Time did not allow the presentations to be made on that occasion, but Mrs. A. B. Quinney kindly attended our closing ceremony on Tuesday, August 1st, and handed the shields, cups and medals to the successful competitors. A vote of thanks was proposed by the head boy, Kempster.

RESULTS

(B—Brownies, J—Jackals, T—Tomtits.)

The results were as follows:—

OVER 15**Boys**

100 yards.—1, Drew (J); 2, McCarthy (J); 3, Hitchings (T); 4, Miller i (T). (Time 11.4 secs.)

220 yards.—1, Drew (J); 2, McCarthy (J); 3, Langston (B) and Miller i (T). (Time 26.2 secs.)

440 yards.—1, Trout i (J); 2, Sargeant (B); 3, Hadwen (T); 4, Gray (T). (Time 63.7 secs.)

Half-mile.—1, McCarthy (J); 2, Sargeant (B); 3, Gray (T); 4, Paddock (B). (Time 2 mins. 20.8 secs.)

Hurdles.—1, Hitchings (T); 2, Langston (B); 3, Drew (J); 4, Burden i (J). (Time 13.4 secs.)

Obstacle.—1, Stanley (T); 2, Hadwen (T); 3, Gray (T); 4, Savage i (T).

Slow Bicycle.—1, Hitchings (T); 2, McCarthy (J); 3, Gray (T); 4, Stanley (T).

High Jump.—1, Drew (J); 2, Hadwen (T); 3, Pearce (T); 4, Bamford (B). (Height 5ft. 1in.)

Cross-Country.—1, Gray (T); 2, Burden i (J); 3, Pritchard (J); 4, Sargeant (B). (Time 24 mins. 30 secs.)

The Mile.—1, McCarthy (J); 2, Gray (T); 3, Paddock (B); 4, Burden i (J). (Time 5 mins. 20 secs.)

Long Jump.—1, Hadwen (T); 2, Hitchings (T); 3, McCarthy (J); 4, Sharpe i (T). (Distance 15ft. 11ins.)

Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, McCarthy (J); 2, Fielding (T); 3, Drew (J); 4, Pearce (T). (Distance 79½ yards.)

GIRLS

100 yards.—1, S. Dyke (T); 2, A. Perkins (J); 3, F. Highman (J); 4, A. Wilson (T). (Time 13.4 secs.)

220 yards.—1, S. Dyke (T); 2, F. Highman (J); 3, A. Wilson (T); 4, M. Craddock (T). (Time 32.2 secs.)

Hurdles.—1, B. Bryan (B); 2, J. Hammond (B); 3, D. Mortimore (T); 4, A. Perkins (J). (Time 16.2 secs.)

High Jump.—1, J. Birch (J); 2, S. Tipping (J); 3, A. Wilson (T); 4, S. Dyke (T). (Height 4ft. 3ins.)

Throwing the Rounders Ball.—1, M. Cund (T); 2, A. Perkins (J); 3, D. Browne (T). (Distance 46½ yards.)

Hop, Step and Jump.—1, J. Dayer-Smith (T); 2, J. Birch (J); 3, M. Craddock (T); 4, A. Perkins (J). (Distance 29ft. 10ins.)

Obstacle.—1, F. Highman (J); 2, S. Spencer (J); 3, J. Hammond (B); 4, S. Tweed (J).

13—15.**Boys**

100 yards.—1, Wesson (B); 2, Wright (J); 3, Trevor (B); 4, Aspinwall (T). (Time 12.2 secs.)

220 yards.—1, Malin (J); 2, Wesson (B); 3, Goodman (B); 4, Cottrill (T). (Time 29.6 secs.)

Half-mile.—1, Wesson (B); 2, Burden ii (J); 3, Watton (B); 4, Horne (J). (Time 2 mins. 36.2 secs.)

Slow Bicycle.—1, Malin (J); 2, Peace ii (T); 3, Horne (J).

Obstacle.—1, Wesson (B); 2, Peace i (J); 3, Sharpe ii (B); 4, Horne (J).

Hurdles.—1, Wesson (B); 2, Jones (J); 3, Sutor (J); 4, Burden ii (J). (Time 14.6 secs.)

High Jump.—1, Goodman (B); 2, Sutor (J); 3, Jones (J); 4, Finnemore (B). (Height 4ft. 1in.)

Long Jump.—1, Burden ii (J) and Wesson (B); 3, Peace i (J) and Malin (J). (Distance 13ft. 6in.)

Cross-Country.—1, Burden ii (J); 2, Davies i (T); 3, Sutor (J); 4, Wesson (B). (Time 15 mins. 35 secs.)

Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, Wright (J); 2, Shakles (T); 3, Finnemore (B); 4, Malin (J). (Distance 65 yards.)

GIRLS

100 yards.—1, P. Tipping (B); 2, J. Goldby (J); 3, K. Norton (J); 4, S. Jones (T). (Time 13.6 secs.)

160 yards.—1, P. Tipping (B); 2, J. Goldby (J); 3, M. Salmons (B); 4, B. Phillips (J). (Time 22.9 secs.)

Obstacle.—1, E. Lewis (J); 2, K. Norton (J); 3, M. Taylor (T); 4, S. George (B).

High Jump.—1, S. George (B); 2, M. Salmons (B); 3, B. Stanford (B); 4, M. Taylor (T). (Height 4ft. 1in.)

Throwing the Rounders Ball.—1, S. Thompson (J); 2, W. Lovell (J); 3, G. Rawlins (T). (Distance 46½ yards.)

Hop, Step and Jump.—1, C. Wigington (J); 2, B. Clarke (B); 3, B. Phillips (J); 4, S. Jones (T). (Distance 30ft. 8ins.)

Hurdles.—1, K. Norton (J); 2, P. Tipping (B); 3, B. Clarke (B); 4, M. Salmons (B).

UNDER 13.

Boys

100 yards.—1, Wells (T); 2, Bates (T); 3, Gillett (J); 4, Allen (T). (Time 12.8 secs.)

220 yards.—1, Wells (T); 2, Allen (T); 3, Whittaker (B); 4, Gillett (J). (Time 32 secs.)

Obstacle.—1, Wells (T); 2, Baylis (J); 3, Gillett (J); 4, Whittaker (B).

Egg and Spoon.—1, Bates (T); 2, Wells (T); 3, Bretherton (B); 4, Wilkes (B).

Sack.—1, Keyte ii (B); 2, Beard (B); 3, Lancaster (T); 4, Grummett (T).

Three-legged.—1, Trout ii and Gillett (J); 2, Lancaster and Ross (T); 3, Davis iii and Leadbetter (B); 4, Dyke and Baylis (J).

High Jump.—1, Francis (T); 2, Gould (J) and Thornton (J); 4, Wilkes (B). (Height 3ft. 8ins.)

Long Jump.—1, Gould (J); 2, Careless (T); 3, Bates (T); 4, Grummett (T). (Distance 13ft. 6ins.)

GIRLS

75 yards.—1, H. Smith (B); 2, P. O'Nions (J); 3, E. Mills (T); 4, P. Dugmore (B). (Time 10.3 secs.)

High Jump.—1, P. O'Nions (J); 2, A. O'Dell (T); 3, P. Rook (T); 4, A. Swinglehurst (B). (Height 4ft. 4ins.)

Skipping.—1, H. Smith (B); 2, K. Richards (J); 3, P. O'Nions (J); 4, J. Rawbone (J).

Obstacle.—1, S. Hunt (T); 2, P. Dugmore (B); 3, P. Draycott (T); 4, H. Smith (B).

Hop, Step and Jump.—1, E. Mills (T); 2, P. O'Nions (J); 3, J. Rawbone (J); 4, A. Swinglehurst (B). (Distance 28ft.)

Throwing the Rounders Ball.—1, A. Lidgley (T); 2, P. Rook (T); 3, R. Dyer (B). (Distance 43½ yards.)

OTHER EVENTS

Tug of War (Boys).—1, Jackals; 2, Tomtits.

Relay (Boys).—1, Tomtits; 2, Jackals; 3, Brownies.

Relay (Girls, 13—15).—1, Jackals; 2, Brownies; 3, Tomtits.

Relay (Girls over 15).—1, Jackals; 2, Tomtits; 3, Brownies.

The following presentations were made:—

Victor Ludorum Cup.—McCarthy (J), with 34 points.

Victrix Ludorum Cup.—Sheila Dyke (T), with 13 points.

Junior Victrix Ludorum Cup.—Pat Tipping and Pamela O'Nions, with 16 points.

Silver Medals.—McCarthy, Gray, Drew, Wesson, Burden i, Wells, Pat Tipping, Pamela O'Nions.

Bronze Medals.—Hadwen, Sargeant, Hitchings, Burden i, Sutor, Malin, Davies i, Bates, Ann Perkins, Frances Highman, Jennifer Birch, Sheila Dyke, Jacqueline Goldby, Kathleen Norton, Eileen Mills, Hilary Smith.

Cross-Country Cup.—Tomtits.

Sports Shield.—Jackals (648 points). (Tomtits scored 420 points and Brownies 301 points.)

THE ALL-ENGLAND RANGER RALLY

The most exciting week-end I have ever spent was in October, when our contingent of Sea Rangers was invited to a three-day rally to be held in London.

We journeyed to London early on Saturday morning. After having a grand lunch, our first excitement was joining the crowds outside Clarence House to witness members of the Royal Family on their way to Buckingham Palace for the baby Princess's christening. To our delight, we saw a chubby face at the window of one of the cars. It was Prince Charles waving to us. We also had a glimpse of the baby Princess in a magnificent robe, on the nurse's lap. We watched the cars disappear into Buckingham Palace.

After a sumptuous tea in a large restaurant, we made our way to the Albert Hall. There we saw the most spectacular pageant of Guiding through the ages. Among the distinguished visitors were the Princess Royal and Lady Baden-Powell. With Charles Smart at the organ, eight thousand Rangers from all parts of England joined in community singing. For three hours we were enthralled by a wonderful pageant of entertainment. It was a marvellous sight.

Back at our hotel, our little party had a grand midnight feast in one of our bedrooms. Next morning we set off on the Underground to the White City Stadium. There we joined the other girls and lined up with Sea, Land and Air Rangers to march past Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, who took the salute. We marched round the Stadium to the accompaniment of the Band of the Grenadier Guards.

It was a wonderful experience and one which we shall never forget.

JANET WINSPEAR (IV.B).

VERSES

(To the tune of "Widdicombe Fair")

Tam Pearce, Tam Pearce, where is your abode?

All along, down along, out along lee;

In Alcester Gramm., just off Alcester Road.

Wi' Matthew Matics, 'Arry Thmetic, Joe Metry, Joe Graphy,

General Science, Andy Craft,

Old Uncle Jim Nastics and all,

Old Uncle Jim Nastics and all.

Tam Pearce, Tam Pearce, what dost thou do there?

All along, down along, out along lee;

I chews my pen and I tears my hair,

Wi', etc.

And when do we meet for to go to the fair?

All along, down along, out along lee;

I can't go to-night, for I'm full of despair,

Wi', etc.

JACQUELINE SQUIRE (II.B).

AUTUMN

When Autumn comes, the leaves turn brown,
The wind begins to blow;
The shrivelled leaves come tumbling down,
And soon we'll have the snow.

The night turns dark quite early now,
The weather is so dull;
The little birds all fly away,
The sheep have warmer wool.

ANN YEOMANS (I.I.B.).

OFF TO CAMP

The day had arrived at last, and for once it was fine. Most of my packing had been done the night before but, as my parents had to go to a wedding, there was plenty of rushing about. Then there was a matter of which station. My friend said Snow Hill, but I said it was New Street (as it turned out to be), and we had to dash down to Alcester to find out which station it was.

Eventually we got started and set off for New Street station. When we arrived we found the rest of the Troop waiting. We had arrived at the back entrance to the station and, as usual, the train was due at a platform on the far side. So we had to carry none-too-light kit-bags over New Street station, an experience I never want to happen again if I can help it.

While we were waiting for the train, some bought books to read on the journey, others sat on the luggage. When the train pulled in there was a rush to find our compartments, which had been reserved for us. For the next few minutes everywhere seemed to be in confusion, kit-bags being piled on to the racks, tents being piled in, and two 12lb. cans of bully-beef which were affectionately looked after by one member of the troop.

The journey down was fairly uneventful, except for one small member who told what he would do if he had a "tommy-gun" in the Middle Ages.

We spent dinner-time parked in a siding smack in the middle of London's "slummiest slums." The excitement grew as electric trains began to appear. As we neared Brighton, the sea appeared on the horizon, and as we pulled in someone remarked: "You would be able to smell the sea if it wasn't for a fish train standing in a siding." Everything was more or less quiet until we reached St. Leonards-on-Sea, where everyone made a rush for the other platform, causing a bell tent and the cans of bully-beef to be left on the station. However, we arrived at Crowhurst and had a one-and-a-half-mile walk to camp. Two members who lagged behind "thumbed a lift," much to everyone's annoyance.

P. NORDEN (IV.A.).

SUNDAY DINNER

Arriving at School on Saturday, July 28th, the morning of the Scouts' departure for camp, we were presented with two large tins of corned beef. We were told that this was to be our Sunday dinner, as it would be too late to obtain any meat when we arrived.

After a long journey from Birmingham, we arrived quite safely at St. Leonards, where we had to change to a slow local train for the final stage of our journey. It was not until we arrived at the camp that we noticed the loss of the corned beef.

Someone thought he had seen the corned beef at St. Leonards, but he was not quite certain. We all had visions of our dinner being carried miles away by an express train. It was decided that Burden and myself should return to the local station, Crowhurst. Here we were informed that our dinner was at St. Leonards, because the station clerk there had rung up and told them.

We caught another local train back to St. Leonards, and collected our dinner, as well as a tent pole which had been left behind. After our long journey back to camp we were relieved to find that the others had put our tents up and that supper was ready. This meal we thoroughly enjoyed, even if the food did perhaps taste somewhat queer.

M. FOGG (V.A).

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Christmas crackers on a tree,
Hung up high for all to see;
All wrapped up in sparkling hues,
Later given for us to use.

Tinsel gaily hanging near,
Decorating Christmas cheer;
Fairy dolls, and coloured lights,
Making very pretty sights.

Time to open them arrives.
Giving all a grand surprise.
Toys and mottoes, caps and jokes,
Make us all such merry folks.

JOYCE DIXON (I.B).

THE CHANGE-OVER

What changes came into my life when I knew I had a place at the Grammar School! Most nights during the summer holidays bogey-men sat on my pillow. Each wore a tall, black hat, with Algebra, Physics and Chemistry printed in large white letters. On meeting them at School I found they were not such bad little fellows after all. As well as a desk and a chair to call my own, there were large class-rooms and a lovely long corridor. Since first seeing this, I have wanted to run from end to end. Maybe I shall manage it some time during my years at the A.G.S.

J. SMART (I.B).

OXFORD EXAMINATIONS, 1950

In the examinations held in July, the following candidates were successful:—

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Group 2 (Modern Studies): D. A. Rose.

Group 3 (Science and Mathematics): J. B. Dance (distinction in Chemistry), A. Hadwen, M. R. Perryman.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

A. J. Bradley (7 Credits), M. A. Cund (5 Credits), F. A. Deer (2 Credits), S. M. Dyke (3 Credits), J. G. Finnemore (6 Credits), P. M. Gowers (9 Credits), A. J. Gray (4 Credits), J. M. Hammond (6 Credits), J. M. Milward (6 Credits), D. Mortimore (7 Credits), J. S. A. Pritchard (7 Credits), J. Redfern (3 Credits), E. A. Richards (2 Credits), R. A. Sallis (5 Credits), E. A. Sargeant (4 Credits).

A FABLE

A mouse ran o'er a sleeping king,
Who waking pounced upon the thing
Which woke him from his precious sleep.
And he said to it in a voice so deep,
"Oh, mouse, for that I will kill you,
And leave you for the cats to chew."
The mouse pleaded hard her life to gain,
And found her pleadings were not in vain.
The lion let the mouse go free,
And ordered her, "Disturb not me."
So when one day she found him laid
(She thought it time he was repaid),
Beneath a hunter's net so strong,
She gnawed with her teeth sharp and long,
And soon set free the grateful king
Who thanked profusely the tiny thing.

Moral:

One good turn to your brother,
Really does deserve another.

MARGARET ROBERTS (II.A.).

THE SCOUTS

This term we have, unfortunately, lost nearly all our older members, most of whom have left School. Among these are our Troop Leader and our Treasurer. We have, however, many new members from the First Form.

Before the summer holidays, Patrol Leaders had a practice camp at Coughton. Then, during the first week of the holidays, we went to Battle for our long-promised camp. This was very successful.

We have been concentrating mainly on semaphore, tracking and fire-lighting this term and, on the whole, fair progress has been made.

E. FINNEMORE.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

On the last Monday of the summer term two play readings were successfully given to the members of Forms Lower and Upper IV. "Grannie's a Hundred" was presented by the girls of the Society, and "Any Body" by the boys.

This term the Society is full to its maximum capacity, and new club officers were elected at the first meeting. They were: President, Dena Browne; Social Secretary, Jill Kempster; Secretary, Barbara Druller. Buckley was re-elected as Treasurer.

Charades and a balloon debate occupied the following two meetings, and then rehearsals for the School play, "Tobias and the Angel," by James Bridie, began. Now, however, owing to the unfortunate indisposition of Miss Young, the performance of the play has had to be postponed until later in the School year.

BARBARA DRULLER.

CHRISTMAS DAY

There's holly up the staircase,
At the top a Christmas bell.
The lounge is hung with paper chains,
And mistletoe as well.

There's holly in the dining-room,
In bunches on the wall.
And mistletoe is hanging from
A ribbon in the hall.

The kitchen has a Christmas smell
Of turkey and mince-pies.
There are pears and coloured jellies,
And a cake of monstrous size.

The whole house has a Christmas look,
So jolly and so gay;
It's very clear to everyone
That this is Christmas Day.

SHEILA SPENCER (V.B).

STAMP CLUB

We have started the new School year with rather fewer members than we had last term. At the meetings so far held there have been distributions of stamps, short talks by members and exchange of duplicates. Bolt i, who has been re-elected secretary, organised a very successful competition at one of the meetings. The "Stamp Mirror" continues to circulate regularly among members.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Last term we said good-bye to our secretary, Kempster, who has been a keen member since the inauguration of the Society; we thank him for all he has done for the Society.

Unfortunately, Shore, who took over the job of secretary, was absent during the first half of the term. However, Mortimore took over and became temporary secretary.

This term we have had two weeks devoted to practical work, one to "Colour Toning" (some very interesting and amusing prints were obtained), and one to printing.

We also welcome to the Society several new members, including some girls, all of whom are very keen. We hope that they will become first-rate photographers.

Unfortunately, the decorators have taken away the blinds, leaving us without a room in which to show lantern slides. Because of this, we have had to borrow the Physics Lab. For this we thank Mr. Hadwen and the members of the Aero Club.

We hope to spend one afternoon on practical portraiture and have at least one "field day."

We will commence next term with another open competition.

P. G. DREW (Chairman).

THE RADIO AND AERO-MODELLING CLUB

This term has seen the start of a new venture in our general activity periods held on Friday afternoons. Enthusiasts in aero-modelling have brought their "kits" and are busy building balsa-wood air-frames. Shortly some of these models will take the air, and it is to be hoped that there will be no disasters. The Radio Section are working on a cathode ray oscillograph; this will prove useful in testing wave-motion, a very important branch of Physics.

MUSIC SOCIETY

This term we were very pleased to welcome some boys among our new members.

We have continued our series of lectures, the composers discussed being Purcell and Schumann. Mr. Lane very kindly lent us some records one Friday and we spent an enjoyable afternoon listening to them. We have also devoted part of our time this term to Purcell's cantata, "The Moon."

Our pianist, Perryman, is arranging a concert for the Society, to take place shortly. We are hoping to visit St. Nicholas' Church one Friday afternoon, when Mr. Lane is going to explain how the organ works and give a short recital.

Since the Carol Service we held last year in the church was such a great success we are going to hold another one this Christmas, if possible.

FRANCES HIGHMAN.

FOOTBALL

For the first half of this term the team has been successful in all its matches. The weekly practice matches were played with enthusiasm, the positions in the team being easily filled. Our first home match, with Bromsgrove, was closely fought, the school winning by the odd goal. In the game with Hanley Castle our forwards were much more effective in front of goal than theirs. Against Stratford, the team's defence had to be re-arranged through illness, but the team again won.

On the whole, we are looking forward to a more hopeful season.

The members of the team are as follows: McCarthy, Buckley, Paddock, Alder, Shelton, Fogg, Wesson, Burden, Malin, Lane ii, Drew, Savage, and Hadwen.

RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st XI.	v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. (home).	Won 5—4.
..	v. Hanley Castle G.S. (away).	Won 3—0.
..	v. Stratford N.I.S.S.C. (away).	Won 4—1.
..	v. Hanley Castle G.S. (home).	Won 6—4.
..	v. Chipping Campden G.S. (away).	Won 5—1.

A. H.

HOCKEY

Captain : R. Varney.

Vice-Captain : P. Aspinwall.

Secretary : B. Druller.

So far this term the First XI. has not been very successful, but there has been some definite improvement in both teams. Lunch-hour practices have continued and after-school practices have been attended enthusiastically. A very keen game was played by the First XI. against Bromsgrove and the School was unfortunate to be defeated. We hope to be more successful in our remaining matches. The Second XI. has not been defeated this term, however, and has shown itself to be a very promising team.

The School has been represented by :—

First XI. : B. Druller, S. Spencer, B. Phillips, R. Varney, B. Clark, P. Tipping, F. Highman, W. Lovell, P. Aspinwall, B. Bryan, D. Palmer.

Second XI. : P. Elmore, R. Lawrence, E. Lewis, S. Taylor, S. Winterspear, S. George, S. Devey, J. Dayer-Smith, S. Tipping, M. Salmons.

M. Bennett, J. Bunting and A. Lidgley have also played.

RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st XI.	v. Redditch C.H.S. (home).	Lost 1—5.
..	v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away).	Lost 0—5.
..	v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. (away).	Lost 0—1.
..	v. Hugh Clopton S.M.S. (home).	Won 2—0.
..	v. Chipping Campden G.S. (away).	Lost 1—12.
A.G.S. 2nd XI.	v. Redditch C.H.S. (home).	Won 3—0.
..	v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away).	Drawn 3—3.
..	v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. (away).	Drawn 2—2.
..	v. Hugh Clopton S.M.S. (home).	Won 6—0.

R. V.

NETBALL

Captain : J. A. Birch.

Vice-Captain : M. G. Malpass.

So far this season we have been most successful, winning easily the two matches that we have played. Whether we prove as successful when we meet stiffer opposition remains to be seen.

In our first match against Stratford N.F.U. we were forced to field a much depleted side because we had so little notice. In spite of this fact we won easily. Our second match against Studley College was a much better game, and the sound team-work of A.G.S. was most encouraging.

We can only hope that we shall be able to maintain this excellent standard to the end of the season, and so remain undefeated.

The First VII. have been chosen from : E. Craddock, G. Malpass, J. Birch, D. Browne, J. Dayer-Smith, M. Bott, F. Highman, M. Craddock, D. Palmer and G. Smith.

RESULTS

A.G.S. v. Stratford N.F.U. (home). Won 27—1.

.. v. Studley College (home). Won 15—7.

J. B.

SCHOOL SHIELDS AND OTHER AWARDS

For the information of more recent readers of the *Record*, we supply the following details of the winners of some of the School trophies.

SPORTS SHIELDS

The winners of the Sports Shields have been:—

BROWNIES (14 times): 1913, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1925, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1948.

JACKALS (12 times): 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1923, 1924, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1937, 1947, 1950.

TOMTITS (12 times): 1918, 1919, 1926, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1940, 1949.

ARTS AND CRAFTS SHIELD

The winners of the Arts and Crafts Shield have been:—

BROWNIES (16 times): 1916, 1917, 1918, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1925, 1929, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1946, 1947, 1950.

JACKALS (7 times): 1930, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1945, 1949.

TOMTITS (12 times): 1919, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1944, 1948.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

In the first year of the competition, a gold brooch was presented to the winner. From 1920 to 1939, the winner received a gold medal and the other finalist a silver medal. From 1940 to 1947, Savings Certificates were presented instead of medals. Since 1948, a silver cup has been awarded. The following is a list of successful competitors:—

1919 Dorothy Winnett.
1920 Violet Bunting.
1921 Gwendolen Edkins.
1922 Meryl Thomas.
1923 Meryl Thomas.
1924 Meryl Thomas.
1925 Meryl Thomas.
1926 Elizabeth Thomas.
1927 Elizabeth Lane.
1928 Barbara Wells.
1929 Olivia Lane.
1930 Margaret Lane.
1931 Margaret Lane.
1932 Margaret Lane.
1933 Winifred Wright.
1934 Winifred Wright.

1935 Kathleen Collins.
1936 Irene Ison.
1937 (No award.)
1938 Irene Ison.
1939 Dorothy Horseman.
1940 Dorothy Horseman.
1941 Marjorie Crompton.
1942 Doreen Villers.
1943 Doreen Villers.
1944 Elizabeth Adams.
1945 Noreen Nash.
1946 Sheila Summerhill.
1947 Joyce Garner.
1948 Barbara Jaques.
1949 Janet Holder.
1950 Ann Perkins.

VICTOR LUDORUM CUP

The winners of this Cup are as follows:—

1913 A. K. Brown.	1932 S. C. Styler.
1914 T. H. Gostling.	1933 S. C. Styler.
1915 J. K. Sisson.	1934 P. W. Warner.
1916 W. Cowper.	1935 C. G. Luker.
1917 W. M. Heard.	1936 C. G. Luker.
1918 W. M. Heard.	1937 W. G. Gray.
1919 W. M. Heard.	1938 J. R. Whitehouse.
1920 E. Bunting.	1939 J. R. Whitehouse.
1921 J. Jones.	1940 I. C. Robinson.
1922 F. Bunting.	1941 W. J. Mahoney.
1923 F. Bunting.	1942 R. J. Hunt.
1924 F. Bunting.	1943 G. J. Hillman.
1925 A. E. Perkins.	1944 G. J. Hillman.
1926 L. S. Barnett.	1945 G. J. Hillman.
1927 A. J. Partridge.	1946 G. J. Hillman.
1928 S. C. Scriven.	1947 W. P. McCarthy.
1929 W. L. Sisam.	1948 G. V. Adkins.
1930 K. E. A. Sherwood.	1949 G. C. Tarver.
1931 F. W. Harper.	1950 R. P. McCarthy.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESULTS

The following details could not be included in the July magazine:—

CRICKET

- A.G.S. 1st XI. v. Redditch C.H.S. (away). Drawn, 38 for eight—91 for eight (dec.).
 „ v. Hanley Castle G.S. (away). Lost, 10—76.
 „ v. Old Scholars' XI. (home). Drawn, 63 for seven—153 for five (dec.).
 A.G.S. "A" XI. v. Astwood Bank Juniors (home). Lost, 41—46 for eight.
 SIDES MATCHES: Jackals 63, Tomtits 36; Brownies 29. Tomtits 31 for 2; Brownies 116, Jackals 49.
 SIDES MATCHES (Junior): Jackals 56, Tomtits 58 for 4; Tomtits 51, Brownies 21; Brownies 58, Jackals 61 for 7.

ANALYSIS

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
A.G.S. 1st XI.	9	1	6	2

TENNIS

- A.G.S. 1st VI. v. Worcester G.S. (home). Lost, 1 set—8 sets.
 „ v. Old Scholars' VI. (home). Lost, 1 set—8 sets.
 „ v. Hugh Clopton S.M.S. (home). Won, 5 sets—4 sets.
 A.G.S. Vith Form v. Staff. Lost, 8 sets—17 sets.
 SIDES MATCHES: Jackals 8, Brownies 1; Jackals 7, Tomtits 1; Tomtits 5, Brownies 4.

ANALYSIS

	Played	Won	Lost
A.G.S. 1st VI.	8	2	6

ROUNDERS

- SIDES MATCHES: Jackals 10½, Tomtits 1; Jackals 6½, Brownies 2½; Brownies 11, Tomtits 1.

ANALYSIS

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
A.G.S. 1st IX.	5	2	2	1

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